This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

600101729Q

33

DEVOTIONS

FOR

YOUTH.

Ere yet the cares of life grow dim,
On thy young spirit's wings,
Now in thy youth, forget not Him
From whom each pure thought springs.

So, in the onward vale of tears,
Where'er thy path may be,
When strength hath bowed to evil years
He will remember thee.

MRS. HEMANS.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR C. J. G. & F. RIVINGTON,
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,
AND WATERLOO-PLACE, PALL-MALL.

MDCCCXXIX.

1402 f. 19.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY
JUN. 83
OXFORD

LONDON:
PRINTED BY R. GILBERT,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

THE LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME,

AS AN HUMBLE TRIBUTE OF RESPECT

TO LEARNING, PIETY, AND BENEVOLENCE,

IS, BY PERMISSION,

GRATEFULLY AND REVERENTLY DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

THE following Prayers were chiefly composed for a few young friends, from the age of twelve to that of eighteen; accordingly some, particularly those which are placed at the end of the collection, will be found of a less juvenile character than others.

A belief that their influence in their original destination was beneficial, having prompted the desire to extend the sphere of their usefulness, they are now, with diffidence, submitted to the public.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

MORNING PRAYERS.

	PAGE
On Sunday	1
Another	3
On Monday	5
On Tuesday	7
On Wednesday	9
On Thursday	11
On Friday	14
On Saturday	16
On a Birth-Day, or New-Year's-Day	18
On a Holiday, or in a Season of Festivity	20
In a Season of Sickness or Affliction	21

EVENING PRAYERS.

On Sunday	24
On Monday	26
On Tuesday	28
On Wednesday	32
On Thursday	34
On Friday	37

PAGE

On Saturday 38
On a Stormy Night 41
On a Fine Night 43
In time of Sickness or Affliction 45
Another 48
Short Forms of Morning or Evening Prayer 50, 51

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

Prayer at Christmas 54
——— at the return of Winter 56
——— at the return of Spring 58
——— on separation from Friends 61
——— for the recovery of a Friend from Sickness 62
——— on the death of a Parent 65
——— for government of Temper 67
——— for Humility 69
——— for Truth 71
——— preparatory to Confirmation 73
——— for Repentance 75
——— for Faith 77
——— for Hope 79
——— for Charity 81
——— for a thankful remembrance of the Death of Christ 83
——— of preparation for the Sacrament 85
Thanksgiving after the Sacrament 88

MORNING PRAYERS.

SUNDAY.

"We will go into his tabernacle, and fall low on our knees before His footstool."—PSALM xxxii. 7.

LET me enter Thy gates, O Lord, with thanksgiving, and Thy courts with praise: open Thou my lips to tell of Thy mercy, which is everlasting, and of Thy truth, which endureth from generation to generation.

As Moses put the shoes from off his feet before the bush that burned with Thy presence, so enable me to cast behind me all idle, vain, and worldly thoughts, all sinful and corrupt affections, ere I pass the threshold of Thy house, that I may lift up my soul unto Thee in pure and spiritual worship; that my prayers may find acceptance with Thee, and may obtain for me such a measure of Thy grace, that I may turn to the duties of another

week, full of resolution to conquer every evil habit, and conform entirely to Thy will.

But how may I dare to speak unto Thee, the sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, how raise mine eyes to the abode of Thy dread Majesty? Oh! Thou that art so awful and terrible on Thy throne of everlasting dominion, how are Thy terrors tempered by the tenderness of Thy fatherly love, which hath given us a High-Priest touched with the feeling of our infirmities, a Shepherd who leadeth us amidst the green pastures of hope and consolation, a Mediator and Advocate, through whom, in the firm but humble confidence of faith, we may approach Thee as pardoned and beloved children.

Oh! give me so deep a sense of the value of this inestimable privilege, that I may never dare to profane Thy service by an ear closed against the words of life, by a sluggish, irreverent demeanor, by estranged thoughts, or wandering affections; but graciously enable me so to tread Thy courts here, that I may be fitted hereafter to rejoice for ever in the glories of Thy kingdom, through Him who hath

encouraged us to come unto Thee, and instructed us after what manner to pray.

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY.

"I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of our God."—PSALM cxxii. 1.

How easy is Thy yoke, O Lord! how light the burden of true religion! All Thy laws are instances of love and mercy, and especially that which consecrates a seventh part of our time to Thyself, to the benefit of our immortal souls; raising our minds from worldly cares and vanities to the contemplation of heavenly things.

Oh! teach me to reverence Thy sabbaths, and to spend them in devotion or in works of charity, with that cheerful piety that becomes a Christian. Let Thy Spirit be amidst the congregation of the faithful, that I and all who this day kneel before Thee, may offer not the worship of the lips merely, but of the heart

and understanding. Teach me to offer up my prayers with humility and earnestness, with a deep sense of my own unworthiness, and with meek confidence in Thy mercy. Make me to repent of all my sins with that contrition of soul, to which Thou hast promised pardon through my Saviour; and when the voices of Thy servants unite in thanksgiving, fill my heart with the sense of Thy boundless goodness, that I may feel how good and joyful a thing it is to be thankful. So may I delight in Thy service here, and, by Thy grace, may true piety so influence all my life on earth, that I may, when Thou shalt be pleased to call me hence, be admitted among the spirits of the just made perfect, in that blessed kingdom where temptation shall no more assail, and sorrow shall no more be known, to give joyful praises to Him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb that was slain, for ever and ever.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY*.

" Oh! let me have understanding in the way of [illegible] "
Ps[illegible]

ALMIGHTY FATHER, who art the Author and Giver of all good things: Thou hast bestowed on all living creatures the faculties best adapted to their respective conditions; Thou hast distinguished man by the noble gift of a reasoning spirit, a soul capable of adoring Thee, and of contemplating Thy attributes, and him alone Thou trainest to be the heir of eternal happiness in Thy presence. Oh! grant me Thy grace, that I may live suitably to this my high calling through Jesus Christ. Teach me to walk as one of the children of light, whom Thou lovest and delightest in, and make me so to remember Thee, my Creator,

* It may be not superfluous to point out that the arrangement of the Prayers for the remaining days of the week may be varied at pleasure, or those for particular occasions substituted in their stead. The writer is desirous to recommend the early habit of selecting Prayers suitable to the feelings and circumstances of the time, considering it the best preparation for the higher exercise of spontaneous devotion.

in the days of my youth, that I may grow up delighting in Thy service, and be a source of joy to the parents and friends by whose love and protection Thy merciful Providence has sheltered my early years. "Save me from folly, vanity, and vice, and from every pursuit" unworthy of a Christian. Give Thy blessing to the instructions which I daily receive; teach me to consider every faculty of my mind as a trust, for the stewardship of which I must account hereafter, that I may earnestly strive to profit by the instructions I receive, and cultivate my talents, not to purposes of vanity, but to the advancement of Thy glory, in promoting the happiness of my fellow-creatures, and in setting forward my own salvation, through Him by whose love and merits my hopes of salvation have been purchased, Jesus Christ, the only righteous, in whose name and words I have the holy privilege of thus addressing Thee.

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY.

"The day is Thine and the night is Thine; Thou hast prepared the light and the sun."—PSALM lxxiv. 17.

HEAVENLY FATHER! at whose Almighty word the sun came forth in the beginning, and there was light over the new created world; grant, so often as Thy preserving mercy shall open my eyes on the beams of returning day, that Thy grace may also awaken my heart to fervent thankfulness towards Thee for Thy protection through the hours of darkness, and for my revival to the blessings of light and life; since it is a good thing to give thanks to Thee, O Lord, to tell of Thy loving-kindness early in the morning and of Thy truth in the night season, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Thou most Highest! How manifold are Thy works, O God! how full is the earth of Thy riches; on Thee all living creatures wait, and to all Thou givest meat and every needful thing in due season. Every morning lighteth on fresh streams of Thy bounty, and every evening closeth on fresh

evidence of Thy sustaining love: day telleth unto day, and one night certifieth another of Thy goodness, boundless and inexhaustible!

As the sun, rising in the east and going about even to the west, performs each day his appointed office; so enable me faithfully to fulfil the allotted duty of each particular day. Make me always mindful that every day is Thy gift, and must be used according to Thy commands, that each day may bring me a step nearer to that state of eternal happiness which Thou hast taught me to labour and to hope for, through the merits of my blessed Saviour. Bless my labours and my studies this day, that instruction may be to me as the seed sown in a grateful soil, that my recreations may be innocent and healthful, that I may have a constant sense of Thy presence, and may walk in love and harmony with my friends and kindred, whom also I commend to Thy mercy and protection, through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY.

" Praised be God daily; even the God who helpeth us, and poureth His benefits upon us."—PSALM lxviii. 19.

GLORY be to Thee, my God and Father; whose eye, that never slumbereth, hath watched over us during the night, and now looketh on us in the brightness of returning day. Thou hast refreshed me from weariness and awakened me from sleep, rouse me also from sloth, call me forth from every shade of sinfulness, and let thy countenance shine on me, that my rising up may be in peace, and my going forth be in the readiness of cheerful obedience. I know not how many dangers have passed by our dwelling while we slept, nor how the destroying angel might have struck hadst not Thou set the seal of safety on our door-posts, but I feel Thy protection on every side, and acknowledge my dependence on Thee for every breath I draw. Oh! let me never be of those who disregard Thy constant blessings, and who require Thy judgments to awaken them

to a sense of Thy mercies. Teach me to perceive Thee about my bed and about my path, to acknowledge Thee in the sunshine and in the shower, in the sustaining and refreshing elements, in the beauty of the earth, and in the majesty of the heavens, in the labours of man which Thou guidest, and in the abundant enjoyments Thou hast provided even for the beasts that perish. All the love that surrounds me is from Thy Spirit, all the benefits that man doeth unto me are from Thy bidding, even the afflictions that visit me are from Thy wisdom, which alone knoweth what is best for me. In Thy gifts may I never forget the Giver; while thus blest by the creatures, may I never be unmindful of their Creator; may the beauty of this visible world ever carry my thoughts to Thee, whom no eye hath seen; may the pleasures of this fleeting life teach me to seek those which pass man's understanding, and which shall never fade; and may the troubles that await this earthly pilgrimage only teach me to press onward to that blessed home, whither I am called through Christ, where sin and sorrow shall never

enter, and where joy shall be in Thy presence for ages without end.

Thou art God alike when Thou givest and when Thou takest away; may I never repine, however afflicted; never despond, however bereaved; but as oft as required may I take up my cross and follow Christ; may my earthly course be in Thy paths, and my eternal inheritance be in Thy kingdom, with Him who hath founded it in His own blood, and shall establish it in eternal glory.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY.

"His faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler."
PSALM xci. 4.

MY God and my Father! early will I seek Thee; in the morning of each coming day, and in the early morning of my life, I will look up and my cry shall be unto Thee, the God who vouchsafest to hear and answer prayer. Thou who guidest the meek and teachest Thy ways unto the gentle, guide me

also, incline Thine ear unto me, and hear me; be Thou my strong hold whereunto I may alway resort, hold Thou up my goings in Thy paths that my footsteps slip not. Thee, my Creator, will I remember in the days of my youth, when gladness is in my heart and I rejoice in growing strength. I will think on Thee, who wilt remember me when my strength shall be dried up, when my day shall set in night, and my sleep shall be in the dust. When I am in heaviness, also, I will think on Thee; when my heart is grieved I will call upon Thee, who wilt hear the voice of my complaining, and have compassion as a Father that pitieth his child. Yea, if evil days shall come, and afflictions compass me about, Oh! enable me then to discern Thy hand that raiseth up, and that can appease the storm; and when my heart beginneth to sink, make me to hear Thy voice, as Peter heard the voice of his Lord amidst the billows, saying, "It is I, be not afraid."

Oh! keep me this day in Thy fear, which is the beginning of wisdom, and which shall guide me into all truth; give me a spirit gentle,

meek, and teachable, that instruction may be to my soul as the dews that fertilize the earth; enlarge my understanding that I may learn the worth and discern the true uses of all knowledge; quicken my apprehension to receive, and strengthen my memory to retain all useful lessons; awaken me to the delight of improving that immortal part of my nature, wherein Thou didst vouchsafe to create man in Thine own image, and aid me with Thy Holy Spirit, to renew it after Thy likeness, in righteousness and true holiness. Give me diligence, and patience, and zeal, in my studies, that I may duly fit myself for whatever station Thou designest me to fill, and enable me to live in all humility and singleness of heart, unto the Lord Jesus, now and evermore.

Bless our house this day, take all that are dear to me into Thine especial keeping, preserve us in our bodies and our souls, guard us from sickness and calamity, from difficulties and dangers, from strife and unkindness, from temptation and sin; sustain the feeble, comfort them that mourn, prosper them that toil, and unite us in Christian love, patiently bear-

ing with each other's infirmities, and keeping the bond of peace, through Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace and righteousness.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY.

"The day is Thine and the night is Thine, Thou hast made the light and the sun."—PSALM lxxiv. 17.

GRACIOUS Author and Disposer of our being! I thank Thee for this return to light and life, for the refreshment of another night, and for the opening of another day in brightness and peace: another portion is given to my life, another season to behold Thy glorious works and study Thy will, to feel Thy goodness, and to fit myself to enter into Thy kingdom; make me to receive it both as a precious blessing, and as a solemn trust: a blessing that calls for fervent thanksgiving, and a stewardship of which I must hereafter give account. May it be passed in usefulness and innocence, in profitable employment and healthful recreation,

such as shall prepare me for my allotted course in the life that I have now begun, and for happiness in that which shall never end: may each hour be marked by some sacrifice to Thee, and advance me in the path that leads to eternal rest. But what offering have I that I can lay on Thy altar; how can my faculties, feeble and helpless as I am, promote Thy glory, or profit others by aught that is good and praiseworthy? Oh! Thou that lookest with pity on our unprofitable service, who vouchsafest to note each step that we may make in wisdom and virtue, and each triumph that we may gain over the perversity of our nature, keep me ever mindful that Thine eye is on me, and in the hope that every evil feeling quelled, every unhallowed temper chastened, every tear dried from another's eye, every feeling of gladness kindled in another's heart, every penitent bowing down of my own spirit, every breathing out of adoration and thanksgiving, may, through my Saviour, find access to Thy mercy.

May I now go forth strengthened by Thy grace, to the duties of this day, and may I so

consecrate it unto Thee, that, through Him who despised not the feeblest of His flock, who took the little children in His arms and blessed them; and who commended the widow's mite, and the cup of cold water given in charity, my service, poor and worthless as it is, may find acceptance in Thy sight.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY*.

I GIVE thanks to Thee, Almighty Father, for this day that Thou bestowest on me: may it please Thee, with the consciousness of existence, to renew in me a sense of my duties, and of the love I owe to Thee, my Creator, my Father. Thou hast promised to give wisdom to them that seek it of Thee; reject not my humble prayer, when I seek Thee in sincerity of heart. Thou hast given me to know my duties by the instruction that I have received; Thou hast shewn me the way

* From the "Recueil de Prieres," by J. A. Martin.

wherein I ought to walk, but, shouldst Thou leave me to my own weakness, how easily might I go astray! All my hope is in Thee, all my strength is in Thy succour; make me every moment to feel Thy presence. Inspire me with true piety, give me the spirit of prayer, and let it keep alive and renew in me the principles of sound religion, and of reverence for thy laws. Incline Thou my heart to all that is pure and honest, and of good report, to all that is righteous and worthy of praise.

Whatever engagements I may contract, whatever connexions I may form, to whatever station I may be called, grant me ever to have regard to Thy designs respecting me. Let my first thoughts be to perform Thy will, my first desire to merit Thy favour and acceptance. Let such, O Lord! be my resolves; and grant that, strengthened by thy grace, they may triumph over the false maxims of the age, the influence of bad examples, the spirit of folly and corruption that prevails in the world. May I preserve a conscience without reproach, and thus be enabled to

come before Thee with humble confidence, to implore Thy blessing, this day and ever, on myself, on my friends, on my country, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

ON A BIRTH-DAY, OR NEW-YEAR'S-DAY.

"For Thou hast delivered my soul from death, and my feet from falling, that I might walk before God in the light of the living."—PSALM lvi. 13.

ALMIGHTY GOD! the Author and Disposer of all things in heaven and on earth, in whose hands are life and death; "sustained by Thy providence, and spared by Thy mercy," I behold the beginning of another year. How many blessings have been my portion hitherto, how boundless is Thy love that forgetteth not the most unprofitable of Thy servants! Oh! let Thy grace, without which nothing is strong, nothing is holy, so guide my youth, so bless my studies, and prosper my exertions, that I may daily gain more and more the power and the will to serve Thee; and as advancing

years shall bring more serious tasks, and call me to more arduous duties, may I more earnestly strive to consecrate every faculty to Thy service, and run with patience the race that is set before me, till I lay up in heaven the treasure of good works, that faileth not to bring peace at the last. But how many are cut off in the strength of manhood, or in the bloom of youth, while reckoning on length of life, and intent only on the things of this world! If it be Thy will to call *me* hence also in the morning of my days, yet let not Thy summons find me unprepared; but, pardoning my many frailties and imperfections, let Thy Holy Spirit so elevate my affections and purify my corrupt nature, that, whenever the hour of my departure shall come, my soul may be presented blameless before my Redeemer and Judge, and through His merits and His love, become partaker of that happiness that passeth man's understanding.

In the name of Him—that living way through which alone we can approach Thee—I sum up my imperfect petitions.

Our Father, &c.

FOR A HOLIDAY, OR SEASON OF FESTIVITY.

"Keep innocency and take heed to the thing that is right, for that shall bring a man peace at the last."

PSALM xxxvi. 38.

GRACIOUS FATHER! whose love investeth this perishable earth with beauty, and who pourest into our hearts the spirit of gladness, bidding us to rejoice continually, even in this our pilgrimage; Oh! let Thy grace be with me in the hours permitted for recreation as well as in those allotted to the discharge of duty, that gaiety of heart may never betray me into levity or folly, but that my mirth may be ever guiltless, and my pleasures unoffending. May the sense of Thy omnipresence both sustain me in seasons of sorrow, and give a sanctifying brightness to my hours of happiness, that my ears may ever shun, and my lips contemn, the jestings that border on impiety or uncharitableness; and that in no unguarded moment any evil passion may find access to my heart, since I know that out of it are the issues of life, and that for every unrighteous word Thou wilt hereafter judge me. Vouchsafe so

to guide me through the changing scenes of this life, that the paths of sorrow or of joy may alike lead me to that blessed kingdom where alone are pleasures that never fade, and joys that pass man's understanding, prepared for Thy faithful servants, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour.

Our Father, &c.

MORNING PRAYER IN TIME OF SICKNESS OR AFFLICTION.

"It is the Lord, let Him do as seemeth Him good."
1 SAM. iii. 18.

O LORD GOD! loving Father of Thy people, from whom I receive blessings continually: suffer me not to yield to an impatient or repining spirit, now that Thou visitest me with suffering, nor to deem aught evil that comes from Thy hand, for Thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve without reason the children of men, but, alone knowing what is good for Thy creatures, Thou chastenest those whom

Thou receivest and correctest our souls by Thy parental discipline.

Thou hast graciously informed our understandings that a life of uninterrupted ease befits not the high destinies appointed unto man, that while the brutes that perish may bask away their transient hour, the immortal spirit is trained by the chastisement of sorrow for the enjoyment of unfading bliss.

Enable me to raise my thoughts to Him, who for our sakes became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and teach me to receive, not with submission only, but also with thankfulness, those visitations that shall wean me from the world and draw me nearer to my Saviour.

I know not if this day shall bring increase or mitigation of the griefs that now press on me, but I implore Thee to elevate and strengthen my spirit to meet each trial that awaits me; may I, by Thy grace, duly perform every duty that shall present itself, and may I possess my soul in patience, discerning in all that shall befal me, Thy fatherly hand that guideth me with tender care. I know

Thou art my Shepherd, therefore I can lack nothing; that Thou wilt yet lead me forth beside the waters of comfort; and though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me, Thy rod and staff shall comfort me. Temporal gloom may overshadow this day, but to the godly there ariseth a light in darkness and joyful gladness to such as are true hearted; give me grace, therefore, so to spend it, that it may be noted in the book of life, and that its close may find me advanced in the path that leadeth to those realms, where all tears shall be wiped from all eyes, and grief shall be turned into joy, through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

EVENING PRAYERS.

SUNDAY.

"I did call upon the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy hill."—PSALM iii. 4.

O THOU Almighty One! who hearest and answerest prayer, who lookest with tender compassion on Thy children when they cry unto Thee. I now bow down in humble and grateful acknowledgment of the mercies vouchsafed unto me this day; for all the temporal, and yet more for all the spiritual blessings dispensed to me; for the portion of Thy word, which is the bread of life; for the light of the Gospel that lighteth unto eternal life; for the comfort and benefit of joining in the social worship of Thy church, of mingling my prayers and praises with those of the assembled faithful, to whom Thou hast promised to turn a gracious ear. Holy are the taber-

nacles dedicated to Thy name, O Lord! how goodly are the gates of our Sion! Let Thy Spirit ever preside over it, preserving it from all hurtful things, sanctifying us unto Thyself, and making us a people faithful in Thy service and zealous of good works.

I thank Thee that Thou hast called me to remember Thee my Creator in the days of my youth, and shewn to me the ways of pleasantness, the paths of peace, by which religion leads to eternal life, in which piety takes away the sting from all earthly sorrow, pouring, even amidst cares and trials, peace into the heart that waiteth upon Thee. Oh! lead me in this, the way everlasting; make me Thine through Jesus Christ, and deign to be the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

Forgive, I pray Thee, O Lord, the frailties and infirmities that have polluted my devotions this day, visit not on me my negligences, my lukewarmness, my dulness of ear and heart; but receive my prayers for my Redeemer's sake, and let the influence of this day's worship prevail through all my words and actions during the week now beginning,

that another sabbath may bring me again into Thy courts, advanced in holiness, and more worthy to find acceptance with Thee.

Now to Thy providence I humbly commend myself and all our house for this night; may undisturbed sleep refresh us, and may we rise to another day with Thy praises on our lips and Thy blessing on our heads, through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY.

"Hear Thou, from Heaven Thy dwelling-place, and when Thou hearest, forgive."—2 CHRON. vi. 21.

I WILL lay me down in peace and take my rest, for Thou, O Lord! makest me to dwell in safety. Into Thy hands I commend my spirit, for Thou hast redeemed me, O God of truth! Let my prayer be set forth in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be as an acceptable evening sacrifice: so may Thine ear, which is not closed against the lowest of Thy creatures, incline mercifully

unto me, who now offer up my praises and thanksgivings for all the blessings of the day past; for my preservation in health and well-being, for whatever improvement in heart or mind I may have attained, and for whatever in my thoughts or actions may have been pleasing in Thy sight. And more especially, Oh Lord! in mercy hear me when I crave Thy forgiveness for whatever faults or follies I have been guilty of in the day past.

[* If I have been wasteful of time, and negligent of duty:

If I have been perverse in my temper and behaviour, disrespectful to my superiors, or ungentle to my inferiors:

If I have been selfish in my actions, unjust or unkind to others, forgetful of my Saviour's rule—to love myself last:

If I have offended against piety, truth, or charity, in my discourse, abusing the noble gift of speech, given to be employed to Thy glory:]

* Select such of these sentences as may be applicable to the incidents of the past day, or insert any confessions that may be more so.

And also for whatever transgressions I may have committed inadvertently and unconsciously, that I may lay down my head to rest, blest in Thy pardon and love, and after the refreshment of moderate sleep, may I and all my friends and kindred be raised again in health and safety, in happy re-union to serve Thee more faithfully from day to day, till at last we may be united to dwell through the day that shall never close, in Thy heavenly kingdom, through Him who hath made us heirs of salvation, and encouraged us to come before Thee as Thy children.

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart hath trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my song will I praise Him."

PSALM xxviii. 8.

GRACIOUS FATHER! Author and Giver of all good! I thank Thee for adding another day

to my life, and for allotting to it so much of happiness. If during its course I have forgotten to thank Thee in my heart, I implore Thee to pardon my negligence, and to accept my humble tribute of praise for this and all Thy mercies past.

That Thou hast called me into being, and preserved me through the helplessness of my earliest years, giving me a bodily frame of health and vigour, with a reasonable soul, and faculties fitting me to serve Thee; that Thou makest the elements of nature and so many creatures minister to my use, giving my eyes to rejoice in the beauty of Thy creation, and my ears in the sounds of harmony and gladness,

Creator of all! I thank Thee.

That Thou hast appointed my birth in a land where Thy word is reverenced, where justice and freedom and peace prevail, where useful arts and sciences flourish; that Thou hast given me Christian parents and friends, and the examples of good men,

Disposer of events! I thank Thee.

That Thou openest to me the treasures of

knowledge, that Thou invitest my understanding to search out Thy works and Thy laws, my mind to explore the realms of thought, my soul to contemplate the world of endless glory, as revealed in Thy sacred volume,

Source of all light, all truth! I thank Thee.

That Thou hast brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel; that Thou hast called us from the death of sin to make us the children of Thy love and the heirs of Thy kingdom,

Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! in devoutest fervency of heart, I thank Thee.

Yet suffer me never to rest in barren words of praise, let me not be as they that vainly cry "Lord! Lord!" but number me with those who strive actively to perform Thy will; who, receiving Thy word in a honest and pure heart, bring forth the fruits thereof in abundance of good works. Oh Thou! who blessest Thy chosen by making them the means of blessing others, grant me to have this pledge of Thy love, that I be found doing good in my generation, a blessing to those

with whom Thou hast cast my lot, an instrument in Thy hands, ministering to the happiness of my fellow-creatures. Whether Thou wilt that I be a burning and a shining light, or that my humble labours be unnoted save by Thine all-seeing eye; whether it shall please Thee to endow me with ten talents, or to entrust hardly one to my stewardship; Oh! make me to render up at last a good account, and to hear that blessed sentence pronounced upon me, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

In the name of Him who came into the world not to be ministered unto but to minister, I offer up my petitions, and now commend to Thy merciful protection, this night, myself, and all that are dear to me, summing up my imperfect prayers in His most perfect form of words.

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY.

" Examine me, O Lord! and prove me; try my reins and my heart."—PSALM xxvi. 2.

THOU who makest the out-goings of the morning and of the evening to praise Thee, whose glory the heavens declare, and whose handy work the firmament sheweth; who hast taught the sun to know his going down, and appointed the moon for certain seasons; I thank Thee both for the day which Thou hast created for toil, and for the night which Thou hast given unto rest. Now Thou spreadest darkness over the earth, and hidest it from our eyes, but no darkness can hide Thy glory, which even now is written on the firmament in beams that were unseen amidst the light of day. Now, while I retire to commune with my own heart in the stillness of my chamber, and while nature is wrapt in shade, let all earthly pleasures and pursuits vanish also from before me, that Thy grace may the more shine inwardly, and the thought of Thee possess me wholly. Thine eye

pierces the darkness and penetrates the hidden recesses of our heart; yea, to Thee all hearts are open, and Thou needest not that my words should reveal unto Thee my sinfulness, but Thou requirest the meekness of confession, Thou despisest not the humble and contrite spirit, and when I cast myself before Thee in penitence Thou wilt turn and refresh me. May Thy mercy pardon all wherein I this day have offended; if my hours have been unimproved, my opportunities of good neglected, if I have given pain or despised reproof, if I have swerved from Thy laws to follow the inventions of my own heart; if I have taken part with the idle in their follies, or made the disobedient my advisers; if I have stifled the voice of conscience within me, and listened to the call of any forbidden pleasure; Oh! Thou, with whom is forgiveness, be gracious unto me; Thou, who delightest in mercy, have pity on me, and let me now, through Christ my intercessor, lay down my head to rest in reconcilement with Thee.

Bless all who have blessed me this day, and all my days past; those especially through

whom the knowledge of Thee hath visited me; give them this night protection from all dangers, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, from unquiet thoughts and anxious cares, from pain of body and from anguish of mind; restore us, if Thy wisdom see fitting, with to-morrow's light, to each other, and to Thy service, rejoicing before Thee, through Him who hath taught us that Thy service is perfect freedom.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY.

"He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in a house."—PSALM lxviii. 6.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, whose love provideth for the whole family of the human race, I thank Thee for all the good that hath been this day bestowed on me, and on those that are dear to me; for our protection, preservation, and welfare, for our happiness in mutual love, and for every opportunity given us of ministering

to each other's comfort. Thou hast framed the sacred ties that bind parents and children and brethren; from Thy inspiration flow all the friendships that unite the hearts of the righteous, and Thou cheerest our efforts after righteousness with the approval of good men, as an earnest of our acceptance with Thee. I thank Thee, Oh Lord! for all the kind friends and kindred Thou hast given me; may they be all of the number of those whom Thou lovest and delightest in, and may Thy providence protect them from all the evils and dangers that wait on mortal life. May it please Thee to crown the grey hairs of the aged (especially ———— *) with honour and with the dutiful obedience of those who are growing up around them; give them the comforts of health and peace, and a sufficiency of worldly things, with the joyful prospect of receiving at Thy hands the eternal rewards appointed for life well spent. Let the labours of those who now toil in the mid-day of life, (especially ———— *) be crowned with all

* Here individuals may be named.

the success that Thy wisdom may see fitting to grant; guard them from all sudden and unforeseen ills of time and chance, from the temptations of the world, from the machinations of wicked men, that they may run with patience the race that is set before them, till they finish their course with joy through Christ. To the young, (especially ——— *,) give the light of Thy countenance, the blessing of sound instruction, and the examples of good men; preserve them from the snares of vicious pleasures, from the dominion of evil passions, from every thing that may withdraw them from the love and fear of Thee, and train them to be faithful followers of Him who suffered the little children to come unto Him, and would not have them forbidden. To us all, grant the blessings of domestic peace, feed us with Thy word, which is the bread of life; unite us here in mutual love and Christian harmony, and unite us again hereafter, there where sin and sorrow and parting shall be no more, in that blessed kingdom of which our

* Here individuals may be named.

Saviour is Lord, and into which we hope to be admitted through His merits.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY*.

I COME, Oh my God! to commune with Thee at the end of this day, when calm and silence succeed to busy toil, and to pour out my heart before Thee, that I may find that peace which is with thee alone. Make me, O Lord! to know the faults I have committed in the past day, and give me a hearty repentance for them, and grant that my days henceforward may be passed in Thy fear. The more my earthly course is short and uncertain, the more seriously ought I to number my days, and to apply my heart unto wisdom. How many are the sick and afflicted whose sorrows are not relieved by sleep, may it please Thee, my God! to pour a healing balm into their wounds. May thine eyes watch over me,

* From the "Recueil de Prieres, &c." par J. A. Martin.

overshadow with Thy protection this night me, my parents, my kindred, my friends; I ask all in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY*.

CREATOR of the universe! Father of all men! Author of all happiness! I bow down before Thee to adore Thy almighty power, which sustaineth all things; Thy wisdom, which presideth over all; Thy infinite goodness, which provideth without ceasing for the wants of all Thy creatures. If I have passed this week in peace, if I have suffered no troubles nor any evil accident, if I have enjoyed the many blessings that make life happy, it is because every morning Thou hast renewed to me Thy protection, Thy bounty, and the care of Thy providence. My soul blesseth Thee, Oh my God! and desireth not to forget one of Thy benefits.

* From the "Recueil de Prieres, &c." par J. A. Martin.

But in prolonging thus my days, Thou, Oh God! requirest that they be employed in holiness and in advancing Thy glory, in improving to purposes of usefulness the faculties Thou bestowest on me; and now, Oh my Father! when communing with Thee and my own heart, I review my past hours, when I examine how I have employed the week that hath now passed away, I feel that I have not done all the good that I ought to have done, that I have not perfectly performed the duties Thou hast appointed me, that I have not improved, as I might have done, the talents committed to my stewardship. How many duties have I neglected? how many faults have I committed against the light of my own conscience and against Thy laws? Thou knowest my heart, and I seek not to justify myself before Thee; I cast myself, Oh my God! on Thy mercy: for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Intercessor, pardon me, Oh my Father! and let Thy peace be with me.

To-morrow is the day especially consecrated to Thy worship; may the sense of Thy

favour enable me to approach Thee with humble confidence! may I be glad when they say unto me, "Let us ascend unto the holy hill;" dispose Thou my mind and my heart to render unto Thee acceptable service; may nothing make me neglect the first, the most holy, the most blessed of my duties, that of worshipping Thee, of celebrating Thy praise, of hearing Thy word, of lifting up my soul unto Thee. Give me understanding, that I may receive Thy testimonies, and profit by the teaching of Thy word. Let me not pass another week without having made some advance in holiness, without having renounced some evil habit, corrected some fault, acquired some virtue. I will hear Thy voice, whether Thou speakest to me by my own conscience or by the voice of Thy oracles. Oh Lord! how happy is he whom Thou teachest Thine own self, that Thy grace and Thy peace may rest upon him!

Hear my prayers, not only for myself, but for my friends, for my country, for Thy Church; receive them in the name of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

ON A STORMY NIGHT.

"Wind and storm fulfilling His word."—PSALM cxlviii. 8.

To THEE, Oh heavenly Father! whose eye pierceth the darkness, and to whom the darkness and the light are both alike, I commend this night myself and all that are dear unto me, humbly imploring that we may safely repose under the shadow of Thy protection, and, however the arrows of destruction fly abroad, may enjoy such restoring rest as may fit us for the duties of another day, if it be Thy will to add another to our lives. Also I supplicate for Thy protecting mercy on all my fellow-creatures, especially the poor, whose lowly habitations afford imperfect shelter; the desolate, who have not where to lay their heads; and the way-faring, who are exposed to the fury of the elements, or who, tossed on the stormy ocean, find the art of man unavailing, and send up their prayers to Thee, at whose voice the winds and waves are still. The tempest goeth not forth but at Thy bidding,

the winds and storms but execute Thy will, and not the meanest of Thy creatures can perish without Thy decree. Teach us then to repose our perfect trust in Thee in every hour of danger, and with thankful hearts to acknowledge Thy protection in times of health and safety; daily to remember the hand that filleth our cup with plenteousness, that crowneth us with mercy and loving kindness; that so our gratitude may not dwell on our lips only, but may influence every action of our lives, till, from serving Thee faithfully here on earth, we may be admitted for ever to rejoice before Thee in those realms of unclouded brightness prepared for the disciples of our blessed Saviour, in whose name and words I close my imperfect petitions.

Our Father, &c.

ON A FINE NIGHT.

"I will consider the Heavens, even the works of Thy fingers, the moon, and the stars, which Thou hast ordained."

PSALM viii. 3.

ALMIGHTY CREATOR of heaven and earth, and of all things therein; how glorious is this firmament, in which Thou hast made the sun to rule the day, and the moon to shine by night, yet art Thyself so far above Thy brightest works, that even the stars are not pure in Thy sight: Oh! let the glory of Thy works and the might of Thy word speak to our hearts, and make us mindful that Thine eye is every where, and that none can hide himself from Thy presence, so may no evil deeds disturb these hours of shade, but may the righteous resign themselves to rest from the toils of the past day, secure in Thy protection, and fearless as the babe lull'd to sleep on its mother's breast.

But before I lay my head on my pillow, I implore, Oh merciful Father! thy pardon for whatever sin I have committed this day in

thought, in word, or deed; enable me to remember every instance of frowardness, sullenness, impatience, sloth, deceit, uncharitableness, or whatever else is contrary to Thy laws, with that sorrow and repentance to which Thou hast promised mercy and forgiveness. Oh! grant me from day to day an increase of Thy grace, that the progress of my youth may duly prepare me for the duties that await my riper years. May every closing day lay my head to rest in reconcilement with Thee, and in peace with all the world; and may every new morning wake me full of gratitude for Thy mercies, and of zeal for Thy service, so may every day, as it brings me nearer to my end, find me better prepared for the summons that shall call me hence, that I may then resign my soul into Thy hands, purified through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

EVENING PRAYER IN A SEASON OF SICKNESS OR AFFLICTION.

"Why art thou so heavy, Oh my soul! and why art thou disquieted within me? Oh! put thy trust in God: for I will yet give Him thanks for the help of His countenance."—PSALM xlii. 6, 7.

FATHER of goodness and pity! who givest continually and upbraidest not; who hearest our prayer what time the storm falls upon us, and whose arm upholdeth us when we are ready to sink, who blessest them that mourn, and biddest the afflicted to be of good cheer. For the many comforts I have this day received, assuaging pain, alleviating sorrow, sustaining feebleness, and supporting hope, I give unfeigned thanks to Thee, of whom we are never utterly forsaken, whose hand stayeth the rough wind that it blow not on us too keenly, and blunteth the arrows of affliction. I implore Thy pardon for whatever feelings of impatience I have given way to in the day past; for whatever of resistance against Thy will, or of fretfulness or frowardness towards

others may have hindered the good influence of those light afflictions, designed in mercy for my welfare. Oh! enable me to exercise the grace of patient meek submission whenever Thou layest Thine hand upon me; give me at these seasons a quickened sense of the excellence of spiritual blessings, and fix my eyes on the light that shineth above to guide me through this vale of tears. If I have neglected the uses of health by giving my powers of action unto vanity, yet grant me to serve Thee in my weakness, by receiving submissively Thy messengers that call me by suffering unto holiness, turning me from light fancies to serious truths, from earthly follies to heavenly wisdom. Oh! lift my thoughts to Him who sanctifieth pain and taketh away the bitterness of sorrow, that I may fully gather the wholesome fruits of adversity, purifying myself, even as He is pure. From the taste of grief may I learn to feel the griefs of others; may the unstable condition of human enjoyment wean my desires from perishable things to fix them on things eternal; may I learn to improve my time with diligence, and

may Thy truth and mercy, which I too little regarded when all was bright around me, be now as the stars that shine through the darkness, to guide my steps till Thou shalt call up the day-spring of peace: convince me of my utter ignorance of what is good for me, that I may rejoice continually, and in kneeling faith adore Thy blessed will. Oh! Thou who art pleased to require that when we are afflicted we should pray, who givest a gracious ear to the sincerity of prayer, and sufferest our addresses, imperfect as they are, to rise up for a memorial before Thee; grant me this holiest privilege, to approach Thee unrebuked; give me in prayer an awful sense of Thy presence, with fervent thankfulness for Thy overflowing bounty, and meek submission to Thy ever wise chastenings; and may I have so deep a sense of my own unworthiness, and of the blessing of a Mediator, and may I use such honest exertion of the best powers of my heart and understanding in my aspirations, that I may obtain the aid of Thy gracious spirit till comfort, pardon, and peace shall visit my soul, through Him, the Instructor and

Encourager of our supplications, in whose name alone I come before Thee.

If my eyes shall now be kept waking, may I meditate on Thee in the night-watches, and if refreshing sleep shall be afforded me, may I remember Thee on my waking, and rise strengthened in the power and the desire to *do* or to *suffer* Thy will.

Our Father, &c.

II.

"Not as I will, but as Thou wilt."—MATT. xxvi. 39.

GOD of compassion and love! Source of all help and comfort! Thou, in the dread hour of strife against the powers of darkness, didst aid and strengthen Thy blessed Son; turn not Thy face from His unworthy disciple, shut not Thine ear against my cry. My blindness discerns not between good and evil, I know not how, from evil that passeth away, Thou workest good eternal, but I am taught that the Lord of Life was made perfect through

suffering: may it be Thy good pleasure to perfect even my frail nature; yea, purify it Lord! in what way Thy wisdom ordereth, and let me never distrust Thy mercy nor resist Thy will. Though my flesh be weak, yet make my spirit willing; and if, in the feebleness of my mortal frame, I desire that this cup should pass from me, yet strengthen Thou my faith that I may receive it patiently, through Him who cried in His agony, "Father! not my will but Thine be done."

SHORT FORMS TO BE PREFIXED TO ANY OF THE OCCASIONAL PRAYERS, WHEN USED IN PLACE OF A REGULAR MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, &c. *(See Collect for Morning Service.)*

Or,

AGAIN preserved through the hours of sleep and helplessness, I awake to adore and serve my God. May His love protect me through this day, and His grace guide me, that I may think and speak and act only as shall be pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.

Another.

DEIGN O Lord! to guide us this day by Thy grace, and to protect us by Thy merciful Providence, to prompt our designs and undertakings, and to prosper our labours in their execution. May we walk mindful of Thy continual presence, blest in the consciousness

of Thy protecting love. And, if Thy wisdom see fitting to add unto us worldly good, may peace and health be in our dwelling, and sorrow and danger far from us. Oh! give ease and comfort to the sick and afflicted that are among us; sustain the feebleness of infancy and of age, and prosper the labours of the strong. Unite us in harmony and mutual kindness, blessing our intercourse with each other, and our communion with Thee, through Jesus Christ.

SHORT FORMS TO BE ADDED TO ANY OF THE OCCASIONAL PRAYERS, WHEN USED IN PLACE OF A REGULAR EVENING PRAYER.

"LIGHTEN our darkness," &c. *(See Collect for Evening Service.)*

Or.

THOU hast preserved and blessed me, Oh Lord! through another day, therefore will I praise and glorify Thy name. Oh! grant

me Thy pardon, for whatever I have done amiss this day and all my life past, that I may now lie down in peace; and, safe under the protection of thy Providence, may await the return of day, to wake full of love to Thee and full of zeal for Thy service, through Jesus Christ.

Another.

I HUMBLY thank Thee, Giver of all good, for the happiness that has crowned the past day; for my health and well-being, for the endearments of social intercourse, and for the light of Thy countenance, that hath shone on me and on those I love. I thank Thee that Thou hast given my steps to be cheered for another day, by the kindness, and guided by the wisdom of beloved friends and kindred, and brightened by a sense of Thy presence, which is impressed on all Thy works around us, and speaks from the Book of Life that Thou hast opened before us. Pardon, mercifully pardon, that I have so little improved Thy gifts. Thou, who art long-suffering and of great pity, bear yet with my unworthiness

and heal my infirmities, by Thy grace, through Jesus Christ. Keep us this night in peace and safety; let calm sleep refresh the weary, strengthen the feeble, comfort the afflicted, and restore the vigorous, with the morrow's light, to Thy service, that we may again walk before Thee, and in steps more true to Thy testimonies, through Jesus Christ.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

AT CHRISTMAS.

"Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel, that cometh in the name of the Lord."—St. John xii. 13.

Almighty Father, who in the fulness of time didst send on earth Thy blessed Son, when the voice of the forerunner had cried in the wilderness, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand;" Oh! give us Thy grace, that Thy word, now preached and calling us to repentance, may make straight in our desert hearts a highway for our King. As the shepherds, abiding in the field and watching over their flocks by night, heard the heavenly messengers proclaim the birth of the Messiah, so may I be ever watchful, at my post of appointed duty, that the glad tidings of salvation may bring joy also unto me, and that I may

join the choral hymn of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward man!" Enable me, in celebrating this happy festival of Thy Church, to present unto my Saviour a sacrifice more acceptable than gold, frankincense, and myrrh, even the offering of a penitent and pious heart, lifting itself to Thee in grateful adoration, and toward my fellow-creatures pouring itself forth in fervent active charity. And grant that the commemoration of my Lord's nativity may not merely awake me to thoughts that pass unimproved away, but may so influence my life and actions, that I may become from year to year more stedfast in Thy service, and that I may come at last to Thy blessed Kingdom, through Him who was born on earth to lead us thither, and who now reigneth at thy right hand for ever and ever.

Our Father, &c.

AT THE RETURN OF WINTER.

"Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters, and maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind."—PSALM civ. 5.

WE have seen Thy beauty, Oh Lord! in the year that has rolled over our heads; Thy bounty hath blest our fields and stored our garners with plenteousness; but now, bowing the Heavens, Thou comest in thy sterner majesty, making darkness thy secret place, Thy pavilion round about Thee with darkness and thick clouds to cover Thee. Thou sittest above the water-floods, and walkest upon the wings of the wind; Thy voice shaketh the wilderness, and is heard in the depths of the sea. Thou callest the clouds from the ends of the earth, bringing the winds out of Thy treasures, and the storms come forth to fulfil Thy word. The beasts of the field fly from the strife of the elements, no song ariseth from the leafless woods, and the children of poverty shrink mournfully into their cheerless habitations. But why should we be cast

down? Nature's gloom is not the work of Thy wrath, nor is Thy mercy withdrawn from Thy creatures in the season of sorrow. Thou who hast set all the bounds of the earth, who hast made both the summer and the winter, Thou hast designed all things for good; out of darkness Thou bringest forth light, in desolation Thou preparest abundance, and out of temporal sorrow Thou workest the eternal happiness of Thy servants. The sown seed dieth only that it may be quickened; the sap lieth in the bosom of the earth only to burst forth again in due season; so the heart that waiteth on Thee in its mourning, shall find rest and blessing from its affliction, and the night of the grave and of corruption leads to the day-spring of life and immortality. Now, while in patient hope, we wait the return of more kindly suns, soften Thou our hearts toward each other's wants and sufferings, kindle the warmth of Christian love in these chilling hours, strengthen the bonds of social union beneath the inclement skies, and while, in the dearth of the earth's gifts, we celebrate the coming of that Bread of Life which, as at this

season, came down from Heaven, teach us to lay up there the treasures that will not fail, and mature in our spirits the faith, the hope, and the charity that shall give us the riches of Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

AT THE RETURN OF SPRING.

"Thou visitest the earth and blessest it: Thou makest it very plenteous."—PSALM lxv. 9.

OH Lord, who now revisitest the earth in beauty and renewing love; Thou who hast bound the stormy winds in the fetters of Thy power, and stilled the raging of the sea; whose sunbeams have freed the ice-bound floods, and spread a mantle of loveliness over all nature; Thee we have acknowledged in Thy terrors, and bowed before Thy voice heard in wintry tempests, knowing that even Thy seeming sternness is loving-kindness; and now, while the spirit of gladness is poured out upon us, we will lift up our hearts in grateful acknowledgment of the bounty

that spreads a table of plenteousness for all that inhabit the earth. Man transgresseth Thy laws and every land is stained with wickedness, but Thy sun shineth still on the just and on the unjust, spring and summer, seed-time and harvest fail not to fulfil Thy promise, genial beams and refreshing showers cease not to cheer the dwellings of Thy creatures.

Now, while the mountains breathe out their exhalations like incense from the altar, while the woods wave as in homage, and the flowers lift their heads in beauty, while the vales send up their varied sounds of gladness, and the air is filled with music, shall the heart of man alone be cold and silent? Shall reason, Thy noblest gift, find no accents for Thy service? shall we receive the abundant increase of the earth's fruits, and hold dominion over the beasts of the fields and the fowls of the air, yet lay no offering at Thy feet? Oh! Thou who touchest the mountains and they smoke, or the flinty rock and the waters gush forth, touch our hearts also, that they may yield the incense of thanksgiving, and

pour themselves out, not in words only, but in deeds of praise, in acts of duty and of charity, obeying Thy precepts and imitating Thy flowing mercies. Thou requirest no bullock for a burnt-offering, no he-goat from our folds, seeing that all the beasts of the forest are Thine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills; but Thou hast prepared thine own spotless Lamb for a sacrifice, and Thou commandest our hearts to offer themselves at his altar. Steadfast in faith, humble and contrite, there may we bend in reverence, and thence turn back our steps to the busy haunts of life, earnestly striving to walk in his testimonies, to follow his examples, to testify our love to Him as he hath required, by deeds of kindness to our fellow-creatures, to purify ourselves as He is pure, and to look for acceptance with Thee through Him, our Mediator and Advocate.

Our Father, &c.

ON SEPARATION FROM FRIENDS.

"If I take the wings of the morning and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Thy hand shall lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me."—PSALM cxxxix. 8, 9.

WISE and merciful Author of all things! Almighty Parent of living souls! Thou who hast in Thy goodness framed the sacred ties of kindred and knit the union of congenial hearts! I bless Thee for all the social happiness Thou hast already poured into my bosom; I bless Thee that Thou hast connected me with the wise, the pious, the innocent, the pure of spirit, and I thank Thee for all the opportunities afforded us hitherto of exchanging kindness and of testifying mutual love. Now, that Thou requirest us to part, let me not repine at an event which Thou hast ordained, but make this parting turn only to our good. Though separated in person, may our hearts be still united. Many lands may spread between us and our friends, but we are still alike in Thy presence, we still drink at the same streams of Thy bounty, and walk by

the same light of Thy Gospel. May thy Spirit guide our steps alike in the paths of duty, and finally lead them to the same bourne of eternal happiness; and, as often as we meet again on earth, may it be in bonds of amity more firm and constant, and with the strengthened hope of final union in Thy Kingdom, through Him whose disciples are known by mutual love, who on earth cherished human friendship, who is the Brother of them that love Thee, and who now looks on us from above, the Friend that never faileth.

Our Father, &c.

FOR THE RECOVERY OF A FRIEND FROM SICKNESS OR DANGER.

"Comfort the soul of Thy servant, for unto Thee, Oh Lord, do I lift up my soul."—PSALM lxxxvi. 4.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, our Creator, our Preserver, and constant Benefactor! Thou, whose bounty is showered upon us continually, and whose mercy, when we go astray,

chasteneth us unto our soul's health, look with pity on us now, when we lift up our afflicted hearts to Thee, who alone canst help. Danger is around us, and we know not if we be not even now called upon to resign one of the dearest of Thy blessings in the friend thus grievously afflicted. Oh! incline mercifully to our supplications, pardon the sins that bring this judgment on us, ward off the stroke of the destroyer, and let this sickness and peril turn to Thy glory, binding us more firmly to Thy service, by the quickened sense of our dependence, and by the ties of devoutest thankfulness, for that help that cometh only from Thee, in whose hands are the issues of life and death. We acknowledge ourselves, indeed, unworthy of the many treasures of friendship and kindness that cheer our earthly pilgrimage; we lament that our selfish and wayward passions too often plant thorns in the hearts of those whose love we prize most dearly, and that we so frequently need to be reminded how soon the blessings we abuse may be recalled. If Thou shouldst see fit to listen favourably to our fervent sup-

plications, and shouldst be pleased mercifully to preserve the life so precious, let the warning fears that now assail us be ever present in our remembrance, to make us more kindly affectioned one toward another, more humble and more devout toward Thee, and may our gratitude for Thy mercy speak forth in every action of our remaining days. But if, in Thine unerring wisdom, Thou seest fitting to reject our prayers, if this cup may not pass from us except we drink it, Oh! teach us to bow in meek submission, and enable us to say from our hearts, "Father! Thy will be done:" and let this and all Thy dispensations tend to purify our spirits, and to bring us nearer unto Thee. Oh! strengthen Thou our faith, and confirm our hope of a joyful re-union with those friends from whom death parts us, in the presence and through the merits of Him who hath taken the sting from death and from the grave its victory, the Saviour who is gone before us into glory, the Friend who in the Spirit is with us, even unto the end of the world.

Our Father, &c.

ON THE DEATH OF A PIOUS AND VIRTUOUS PARENT.

"The spirit hath returned to God who gave it."—
ECCLES. xii. 7.

OH! Thou, who, as the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, didst declare Thyself to their remote descendants, to be the God, not of the dead, but of the living, and who hast revealed Thyself to us as the Father of Him who is the resurrection and the life, who has taken the sting from death, and from the grave its victory, at this awful moment fervently do I thank Thee that thou hast brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel, and hast taught us to regard our present and our future state as one continued existence, one onward parth of improvement and happiness, and death only as the gate that admits us into Thy presence. Oh! let this faith strengthen our failing spirits, bind up our hearts, now torn by the uprooting of their deepest affections, and enlighten our understandings, clouded by the anguish of this

bereavement, to see that our beloved parent, now departed, and the fathers to whom he (or *she)* is gathered, are resigned not to darkness but to Thee. Suffer us not to repine that Thou who gavest hast also taken away, but make us to acknowledge in all thankfulness Thy goodness, in continuing to us so long the precious blessing of a parent's fostering care; and while we kneel before Thee, in deepest contrition for every instance of frowardness or disobedience, whereby we have wounded love so tender, do Thou look upon us with Thy pardoning mercy, and sanctify the severe regret which now afflicts our hearts, to the impressing on them all those pious examples, and those precepts of wisdom, that in happier hours were too often disregarded.

Desolate as we feel in our feebleness, now that the guide of our youth is withdrawn, Oh! teach us to lean wholly on Thee; Thou who art the Father of the fatherless and the God of the widow; Thou, our heavenly Father, art never absent from us; lift our souls to Thee that we may need no other guide to

lead us in the ways of piety and virtue; sustain us by Thy never failing Providence in all the sorrows that await us, and shield us from all the temptations of this evil world; support us through our earthly pilgrimage, and, at its close, receive us to Thyself, through Him who maketh us Thy children and the heirs of Thy kingdom.

Our Father, &c.

FOR GOVERNMENT OF TEMPER*.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."—ROMANS xii. 18.

GRACIOUS FATHER! who, in the Gospel of peace and mercy, hast declared that Thou receivest our love and charity toward one another in evidence of our love to Thee; Oh! give me that wisdom from above that is gentle, that spirit of meekness and loving kindness of which our blessed Lord gave us the precept and the example. I earnestly desire that my

* Partly borrowed from the "Pietas Quotidiana."

demeanour should be at all times gentle and courteous, and my whole conduct such as may become a disciple of the holy Jesus, but my nature is frail and feeble, and I am many times borne away by frowardness and impatience of temper, forgetting how much love it is daily incumbent on me to requite, and how much my own errors and infirmities stand in need of indulgence from others. Make me ever mindful of the judgments denounced against an angry spirit, impress me with a sense of its unworthiness in Thy sight, and of its tendency to unfit me for the duties and charities of this life and for the happiness of a better. Let the example of my Saviour inspire me with an humble, charitable, and forgiving temper, that, like Him, I may be meek and lowly of heart. Check my presumption, curb my impetuosity, wean me from self-love, root out from my heart all pride and vanity and arrogance, all malice, envy, prejudice, and ill-will, give me an humble opinion of myself, and make me ever mindful of the conditions on which I daily implore at Thy hands forgiveness for my many trespasses. Take

from me the spirit of this world, and endue me with that spirit of charity which suffereth long and is kind, that beareth all things and is not easily provoked; so that, being filled with Thy peace, which passeth all understanding, I may live in comfort and harmony, may die joyfully, resigning my soul into Thy hands, and hereafter dwell in those mansions where Thou, Lord, with the blessed Jesus, the prince of peace, livest and reignest, for ever and ever.

Our Father, &c.

FOR HUMILITY.

"The Lord will save such as be of an humble spirit."
PSALM xxxiv. 18.

OH! all-wise and gracious Father! who resisteth the proud and givest grace unto the humble, and requirest us to cherish a meek and quiet spirit, I implore thee to quell in my heart the swellings of arrogance and presumption, to impress me with a sense of their folly

and impiety, and to bring me to that temper of humility which may fit me to find acceptance with Thee. I thank Thee that the Gospel, giving light to guide us through every stage of life, affords even to childhood lessons so deeply impressive. May I be ever mindful how He, under whose feet Thou hast placed all things, to whom Thou hast given dominion over all in Heaven and in Earth, was once a meek and lowly child, subject to an earthly father, and dutifully obedient to that tender mother, who kept His sayings in her heart. Reclaim me, O Lord, by Thy wise chastenings, whenever I forget my own weakness and insufficiency, my constant dependence on the fostering care of those friends, with whose love Thy Providence hath blessed me, and the debt of gratitude I owe them; endue me with the spirit of meekness, innocence, simplicity, purity, and humility, and give me grace to become one of such as compose the Kingdom of Heaven, through Christ, our Redeemer, our Brother, and our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

FOR TRUTH AND THE RIGHT GOVERNMENT OF THE TONGUE.

"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips."—PSALM cxli. 3.

OH! Almighty Father, who hast called Thyself the God of truth! Thou who seest our inmost thoughts, to whom all falsehood is an utter abomination, and to whom we are accountable for every idle word, let Thy grace be a watch on my lips, that my tongue offend not against piety, charity, or truth. I humbly thank Thee that Thou hast not only revealed to man Thy power and goodness, and given him a soul capable of contemplating Thy attributes and studying Thy works, but hast moreover endowed him with the noble gift of speech, and taught his lips to pour forth Thy praise. Enable me to consecrate this faculty to Thy service, by persevering in the delightful exercise of praise and prayer, and by uttering only the things that shall be innocent in Thy sight; make me to bridle my tongue and keep silence while I suppress

each feeling that may be offensive to Thee, and may each righteous thought, cherished and improved, find expression tending to Thy glory and to my soul's health. Mercifully look upon the frailty and the infirmities of my earlier years, that provocation hath ever moved me to ungentle revilings or slanderous expressions, or that evil example hath ever led me to join in profane discourse, making me unmindful of the reverence due to all things sacred; pardon me if the fear of man or the apprehension of evil hath ever driven me to deny the truth, if covetousness, vanity, ambition, have betrayed me into deceit, or the love of applause induced me to assume false appearances, the vain attempt to obtain fleeting undeserved praise from short-sighted man, thus polluting me in the sight of Thee, the God to whom all hearts are open, and who requirest truth in their very inward parts.

Graft in my heart the love of Thy word, that I may become a true disciple of Him who spake as never man spake, and through whose mighty salvation I hope to be guided into all truth, and to attain to that state where

error shall be no more, and where the soul that Thou receivest, having loved Thy truth here, shall be blessed and glorified in the knowledge of Thee.

Our Father, &c.

PRAYER PREPARATORY TO CONFIRMATION.

"I will pay my vows unto the Lord, in the sight of all his people."—PSALM cxvi. 16.

ALMIGHTY FATHER! Author of our Spirits and Disposer of our existence here and hereafter! I now bend before Thee to offer my humble and earnest praise, that my birth was appointed in the bosom of Thy Church, and that I was early dedicated by baptism to Thy service, that service which alone is perfect freedom, that even while yet, in the feebleness and ignorance of infancy, I knew not Thy awful name, and my uninformed heart had not warmed at the tidings of my Saviour's love, Thou didst sprinkle me with the waters that purify unto salvation. I render thanks

to Thee for all the parental kindness that through my years of childhood has laboured to train my feeble steps in Thy paths, to fence me round from the approach of sin and misery, to destroy the germ of evil passions in my breast, to open to my unfolding reason the wonders of Thy law, to build me up in the knowledge and fear of Thee, to elevate my soul to the contemplation of the mighty triumph over sin and death, accomplished in the passion and resurrection of my incarnate Redeemer.

And shall I not consecrate to Thy service the life Thou hast sustained, and all the faculties Thou hast bestowed? Shall not my own voice ratify the vows of repentance, faith, and obedience, with which I was first presented in the temple as a child of grace, a candidate for the Kingdom of Heaven? I implore Thee to pardon all the sins, errors, negligences, and infirmities of my childhood, and to enable me now with a mature and stedfast spirit, to bind on myself, in the presence of Thy congregation, those engagements in which my sponsors pledged themselves, to make public

profession of that faith once delivered to the saints, and, enlisting under the banners of Christ, to wage His warfare against the powers of sin. Oh! enable me to gird on that armour of righteousness which the Gospel by Thy grace supplieth, that I faint not in the good fight of faith, but enduring to the end, may I finally receive that crown of glory promised to the followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

FOR REPENTANCE.

"Repent ye! for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."
MATT. iii. 2.

OH Thou! the all merciful Father and all righteous Judge of the universe, who hatest iniquity, yet pitiest our infirmities, and art ever nigh unto them that call upon Thee with a contrite spirit; I humbly thank Thee that Thou hast given the Gospel to be a city of refuge, whither the feeble soul may flee and

live, and the heart, conscious of frailty, but not hardened in wickedness, may find succour and strength, and from short tribulation pass unto peace everlasting, through the Saviour. I give Thee fervent thanks for the ministry of that High-Priest who, having been tempted like as we are, yet without sin, now loveth to raise up them that fall, and for the assurance He has given us that through Him we may find forgiveness, and that even the angels before Thy throne rejoice over the sinner that repenteth, while Thou sayest, "Come again, thou child of man!" and receivest back the penitent as the father welcomed the returning prodigal to his bosom.

Let Thy grace, which Thou hast promised to them that seek it in earnest prayer, be with me now, and wake me to true repentance; mature my spirit that I may put away all frowardness and perversity, and may conquer all infirmities, subdue all follies, vanities and evil propensities; fill me with deep contrition for all past offences, and strengthen my resolves to conform in all things to Thy will; lead me in the sense of Thy continual presence, in the

habitual contemplation of Thy mercies, steadfastly looking to Thine eternal rewards, and striving for the happiness of Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

FOR FAITH.

"Being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ."—ROM. v. 1.

ALMIGHTY and gracious Father, Thou who from the heavens hast revealed Thyself to us children of the dust, who, though the angels approach not undazzled the effulgence of Thy glory, dost make Thyself ever manifest to us through Thy works, and art ever present with us by Thy Spirit; vouchsafe to strengthen in me that faith without which no man shall see Thee, and by which we look for salvation. Exalt my faith to be as that by which Job knew that in his flesh he should behold Thee, and Abraham saw from afar the day of redemption, and rejoiced. By faith Moses led forth Thy chosen from bondage; before the

faith of Israel the walls of Jericho fell prostrate; the faith of David was rewarded with the throne of Sion, and by faith the martyrs were enabled to exult amidst tortures and death, secure of an immortal crown. May such faith be to me a guiding light through the dark and devious paths of mortal life: teach me this mystery which overcometh the world, taking away the delusion of its pomps and vanities, the strength of its temptations, the bitterness of its afflictions, giving substance and certainty to things hoped for, evidence irresistible of the things not seen. And shall we, who possess the records of Thy promises fulfilled through a thousand generations, be heedless of Thy word? Shall we, whom the day-spring from on high hath visited, be found doing the works of darkness? And while rewards, glorious as they are certain, incite us to perseverance, shall we sink back in sloth, and for the sake of sinful indulgences, forfeit the joy of Thy kingdom? I know Thou art the God who receivest them that seek Thee; make me to seek Thee diligently, and zealously to labour in good works, waiting with

patient confidence for Thy rewards, though they be long delayed. Guide my inexperienced steps, that, through all the scenes of life that are yet before me, I may walk as in Thy presence, and if sorrow await me there, make me to remember how familiar with grief was He who came from Thy bosom, and how cheerfully He endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him; so, through Him, the Author and Finisher of our faith, may I at last find acceptance with Thee.

Our Father, &c.

FOR PIOUS HOPE.

"Rejoicing in hope."—Rom. xii. 12.

Gracious and all-bounteous Father, who in the midst of wrath thinkest upon mercy! Even in the hour of man's first transgression Thou didst promise him redemption, and when his guilty race was swept from the earth Thou didst set Thy bow in the clouds to be a memorial of wrath ended and a pledge of preservation assured, a herald of peace and re-

concilement, inspiring hope and confidence. Through every age Thy love hath watched over Thy erring creatures, Thy promises of mercy have been abundantly fulfilled; how then can we fail to hope and trust in Thy mercy that endureth for ever in the heavens, and in Thy truth that remaineth from generation to generation? I thank Thee that Thou hast implanted hope in the very nature of man, at once a well-spring of refreshment, and a means of acceptance with Thee: whenever my strength faileth beneath the pressure of earthly trials, lift Thou up my soul to Him who died and rose again to give us assurance of the glory that shall be revealed. Be Thou, O Lord! my hope and my trust; guide me by that light of heavenward hope that shineth more and more unto the perfect day; make me to rest securely in Thy promises, which, though the sun and moon fade away, shall stand fast for ever; and so establish Thou my hope in Thy word, which was made flesh, and dwelt among us, that it may remain through Him unshaken for ever.

Our Father, &c.

FOR CHARITY.

"Now the end of the commandment is charity, out of a pure heart."—1 Tim. i. 5.

Oh Lord! who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth, send Thy Holy Spirit and pour into my heart that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee! Thou, in the wisdom of Thy love, hast made Thy creatures rich and poor, strong and feeble, in order that mutual aid might bind all hearts together, and Thou hast implanted in our nature the instinct of compassion, making it more blessed to give than to receive. How benign, how full of mercy were those glad tidings of salvation, which, while they declared glory to Thee, proclaimed also on earth peace and good-will to man. Oh! let Thy word prosper, be glorified, till the Gospel of peace shall extinguish every evil passion, till hatred and envy and strife and oppression be no more known among men,

but that we may learn to love each other, even as Christ hath loved us. May the help of Thy grace lead me in the paths of Him who was eyes unto the blind, feet unto the lame, and the friend of them that had no helper. Teach me to weep with them that weep, and to rejoice with them that do rejoice; to pour balm into the bleeding heart, to be the herald of comfort to the house of mourning, to bear with wrongs, to requite evil with good, and to look with meekness on the frailties of others. Endue me with this Christian spirit through Him whose life was one continued act of charity, whose death was the stupendous consummation of it, and who now, seated at Thy right hand, and invested with dominion over all things in Heaven and in earth, yet vouchsafeth to call frail man His brother, and to will that where He is there should we be also.

Our Father, &c.

FOR A THANKFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

*(Preparatory to receiving the Sacrament *.)*

"This do in remembrance of me."—LUKE xxii. 19.

OH LORD GOD! Spirit holy and eternal! who holdest in order and subjection the orbs that roll above, and yet vouchsafest to be ever present with us: whose word, heard through the utmost bounds of creation, yet whispers to the contrite heart in the still small voice of love and consolation: we thank Thee that Thou teachest us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, and revealest to the humblest disciples of Thine anointed those mysteries of our salvation into which the angels desired to look. Thou teachest us that Thy kingdom is within us, that the hearts of the faithful are Thy temple and Thy throne. Let mine by Thy grace be duly prepared to be a guest-chamber fit for the reception of my Saviour,

* The four preceding Prayers may be found useful on the same occasion.

purified from all pollution, and furnished with holy thoughts and pious purposes. Fill me with deep contrition for all the sins that brought the Lamb of God to sacrifice; may all hardness of heart be softened by His sufferings, and all pride before His meekness stand rebuked. Enable me to restrain all levity, all vain and wandering affections, by the remembrance of His stupendous love, and make me sincerely to mourn over the disregard of holy precept that called Him to walk in sorrow this sin-stained earth, a visible example of all perfection, and to lament the evil heart of unbelief that could be convinced only by mighty miracles, by the Son of Man springing forth from the tomb, whither He had gone down in bitterest agony. In this deep spirit of repentance bring me to the altar of my Redeemer, fix in me that steadfast faith that overcometh all the world's temptations, and fill me with thankfulness meet for the acknowledgment of His benefits. No thankfulness, indeed, that I can pay can be proportioned to the debt I owe, yet will I strive to call upon Thee faithfully, to receive the cup of salvation

poured out for me, and by holy living to secure the inheritance that awaits the redeemed of the Lord. Even so, Lord! so may it be, for such in Thine abundant mercy is Thy will. And oh! do Thou enable me worthily to commemorate the sacrifice of my Lord's death, bring me to the holy table of His last supper, an accepted guest, arrayed in the marriage garment of pure and holy thoughts; and may my frequent attendance there fit me to appear at last before His judgment-seat, in awful and humble hope to attain through Him that happiness which He so dearly purchased for us, and to which, most merciful God! Thou willest that all Thy creatures should arrive.

Our Father, &c.

FOR A WORTHY RECEIVING OF THE SACRAMENT *.

WHAT thanks I owe unto Thee, my God! for all Thy mercies, but especially that Thou

* Translated from the "Recueil de Prieres, &c." by Jean Ami Martin.

hast made me a partaker in the blessings of that covenant of grace which Thou hast established with mankind by Jesus Christ: Thou hast appointed my birth within Thy Church; sprinkled with the waters of baptism, the light of the Gospel has shone on me from my cradle; Thou hast afforded me every needful aid to enlighten my mind and to purify my heart, and hast numbered me with those whom Jesus Christ suffered to come unto Him, and whom He blessed. Behold I have found it my portion to be His disciple, to be faithful to Him, and to die in His communion. I have made this holy vow in Thy presence, Oh my God! Thou hast heard it, and I renew unto Thee my fervent prayers for its fulfilment. Yea, to Thee, my Father, to Thee, my Saviour, I consecrate my faculties, my powers, my mind, and my heart; direct them to Thyself, Almighty God! Let me never depart out of the way that Thou hast shewn me, let me never be led astray by the things of this world, by the maxims and examples of the wicked and profane. I will seek ever more and more to know Thee, and Jesus

Christ whom Thou hast sent: may the thought of Thee mingle with all my thoughts and all my actions; may the example of my Saviour be ever before my eyes, may Thy spirit guide me in His steps, thus I shall never have to mourn the fatal effects of youth spent in disorder; I shall ever recal with holy joy that blessed period of my life when Thou didst seal me with the seal of Thy love; I shall never have cause to think with shame on the engagements entered into at Thy holy table. To this end I have continual need of Thy grace; may Thy Spirit be ever with me, for without Thee I should be too easily led astray; I place myself under Thy protection, may I persevere unto the end in the practice of all my duties, and may my parents, my friends, my brethren, may all mankind partake with me in the blessings which Thy Son hath brought into the world. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

THANKSGIVING AFTER THE SACRAMENT *.

WHAT shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits? I will receive the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. My soul blesseth Thee, Oh my God! all that is within me praiseth Thy holy name. Thy mercy and loving kindness are renewed to me continually, but more especially this day, my heart is filled with thankfulness for those precious blessings wherewith Thou hast blessed us in Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent on earth to be the light and salvation of the world. Thou hast been pleased to make me a partaker in these benefits by appointing my birth within Thy Church, by calling me to Thy covenant, by admitting me to Thy holy communion: yet again this day Thou hast received me at Thy holy table, to strengthen my faith, to enliven my zeal, to seal me with Thy grace, to offer to me Thy peace and heaven and immortality. Oh let me not have re-

* From the "Recueil de Prieres, &c." par J. A. Martin.

ceived Thy grace in vain; let me not neglect so great salvation! Make me to retain the pious thoughts, and persevere in the good resolutions which the Holy Supper has awakened in me: may the impressions of Thy word and of Thy communion never be effaced; may they follow me in my labours, in my pleasures, into the world, into my retirement. Let me ever remember the engagements I have made at Thy table. I have offered to Thee the sacrifice of every angry passion, of every vicious inclination, of every corrupt affection. Aid me Thyself to complete the sacrifice, to bring the fruits of true repentance, and when Thou renewest to me these days of grace, may each communion find me advanced in the paths of holiness and salvation.

Sustained, Oh my God! by Thy powerful grace, guided by Thy Spirit, I shall answer to my heavenly calling; ransomed at a great price, I will glorify Thee in my body and my soul, which are Thine, and if I yet live in this body, I will live in the faith of Jesus Christ, my Saviour; I will lift my soul to Him, I

will be faithful to Him; His example shall be ever before my eyes, I will labour for the advancement of His kingdom; thus shall I have an habitual communion of heart and mind with Him, and nothing will ever separate me from His love; thus I shall finish my course, till Thou shalt accomplish in me that desire of my Saviour, "I desire that those whom Thou hast given me be with me, that they may have part in the love wherewith Thou hast loved me." Amen.

Our Father, &c.

THE END.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY R. GILBERT ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.